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House Passes Akin Education Amendment
Amendment requires that testing be on objective knowledge

(Washington, D.C.) Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed unanimously by voice vote the Akin amendment to H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. H.R. 1 ties performance on mandatory state tests to federal funding.

The Akin amendment requires that “tests be of objective knowledge, based on widely accepted professional testing and assessment standards, and shall not assess the personal opinions, attitudes, or beliefs of the student being assessed.”

Representative John Boehner (R-Oh) the Education and Workforce Committee Chairman, complimented Congressman Akin on working with both sides of the aisle. The amendment “gets us to truly objective tests that provide safeguards to make, frankly, all of us as policy makers more comfortable with the steps we are taking with this bill,” stated Boehner.

“The amendment will help us get closer to the President’s vision,” stated Representative Bob Schaffer, R-Colorado.

“This is a very substantive amendment,” stated Akin. “It is critical that tests measure objective knowledge rather than opinions or beliefs. For America’s children to remain competitive we need to teach and test real world knowledge. There can be no accountability without objective testing.”